FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 NOVEMBER 1983

## PLO Affairs

Tripoli Cease-Fire Arrangements — Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, after discussing arrangements for implementing the cease-fire agreement with a delegation from Tripoli, announced in remarks broadcast by Damascus television that Palestinian fighters who came to Tripoli from abroad must leave Lebanon; others who were "originally" in the north must choose between leaving or returning to the refugee camps. As for the "fighters of the upheaval," they must return to the refugee camps, albeit "not necessarily to Al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid," Karami added. During their meeting in Damascus, Karami and the Tripoli leaders decided to establish committees for political, social, and security affairs to assist with the arrangements, the television reported.

In Tripoli, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told a Cairo newspaper that he expects a new offensive and that his forces will therefore leave Tripoli only after the arrival of an Arab force to ensure the safety of fighters and civilians in the city, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Earlier, Fatah dissident leader Sa'id Musa Muragha said his side will never agree to an Arab force to supervise the agreement, according to Turbul Voice of Palestinian Revolution radio. Muragha said his men will stay in their camps to protect them from any "Zionist" attack and he appealed to 'Arafat's fighters to return to positions in the front-line against Israel.

Relations With USSR — In a telegram to 'Arafat broadcast by Moscow radio and Algiers Voice of Palestine, the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium stressed that unity is an "indispensable condition" for the PLO's success, which also requires close cooperation between the PLO and those Arab countries which stand in the "front ranks of resistance to the U.S. and Israeli aggressive and expansionist designs." The telegram expressed concern that "the situation now in this respect leaves something to be desired."

Meanwhile, a PLO spokesman denied the Egyptian paper *AL-AKHBAR* report that 'Arafat recently criticized the Soviet Union for siding with Syria, according to AFP. "Clarifying" his comments in a subsequent interview in Kuwait's *AL-ANBA'*, according to KUNA, 'Arafat called the USSR "an ally of Syria and a friend of the PLO." He noted that Soviet arms shipments meant for the PLO had been seized by the Syrians.

Khalaf Interview — Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, in an interview with the London magazine *AL-MAJALLAH*, warned that the PLO will not allow the Palestinian revolution to be destroyed and will resort to "all forms of struggle" to reestablish its presence in "arenas close to the occupied territories." If there is an "exodus" from Tripoli, "those who have slaughtered our people should expect anything," he said. The Fatah leadership will employ "terror" against those who attacked and conspired against the PLO, starting with the Palestinian "traitors and agents," and then striking against "other arenas from which harm has come to us."

## Lebanon

Political Developments — President Amin al-Jumayyil held talks at the Vatican and with the Italian Government, specifically concerning the Italian contingent's role and contribution in Lebanon, Beirut radio reported.

In another development, the Libyan charge d'affaires departed Beirut on 28 November, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Iranian Presidential adviser Mostafa Mirsalim toured Islamic Revolution guard positions and headquarters in the Al-Biqa' region, particularly those bombed in the French and Israeli air raids, according to IRNA and Tehran radio.

Meanwhile, a Hezbollah official in Ba'labakk warned that the Multinational Forces must leave Lebanon "or else there will be nothing between us and them other than fighting." In a statement eulogizing those killed in the French and Israeli air raids reported by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, the official pledged that "death will reach" the Multinational Forces "at the hands of the believers."

Military Developments — One U.S. Marine was wounded and the contingent put on maximum alert when their positions around Beirut airport were shelled, the Voice of Lebanon reported. The radio added that Lebanese Army positions in the mountain and Khaldah regions and Beirut's southern suburb also came under artillery and rocket fire, while Beirut radio said that Army positions around Suq al-Gharb were heavily shelled.

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### AFP Reports Assassination Attempt Against Qader

*BK291344 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 29 (AFP) — Two unidentified men attempted to assassinate Afghan Defence Minister General Abdol Qader in Kabul on November 10 in what could have been part of an ongoing power struggle within the ruling Communist Party, a Western diplomat said here today. The source said two men opened fire on the general from a moving car as he was getting out of his official vehicle outside his home, slightly wounding two soldiers standing guard.

Shortly afterwards, a helicopter flew over the residential area where the general lives, but there was no news of any arrests, the diplomat said.

Gen. qader is a member of the "Parcham" faction, which dominates the Communist Party led by President Babrak Karmal.

He narrowly escaped death on October 27 when his helicopter came under rocket fire near Herat, western Afghanistan. This was near where a Soviet general was killed earlier in a rebel rocket attack against his helicopter.

The sources said Gen. Qader was still recovering from injuries sustained last May in a fight with his second in command, General Khalilullah, a member of the rival "Khalq" faction of the Communist Party.

The attempt on Gen. Qader's life comes at a time when the rivalry between the two factions is becoming increasingly violent, according to Western diplomats in Kabul.

Last week, officers from both factions were assassinated in Kabul, the diplomats said.

Some of the 20 to 30 weekly political assassinations in the Afghan capital were results of the power struggle within the Communist Party, they said, although rebels continued to be responsible for most of the killings.

On November 14, a fight between rival officers at the Kabul Police Academy resulted in several men being dismissed by Interior Minister Mohammad Golabzoy, who heads the Khalq faction, the diplomats said.

President Karmal recently acknowledged the tensions within his party in a speech before the Politburo that stressed the importance of unity within communist ranks in the fight against "counter-revolutionary" elements.

Traditionally better established in the Army and the provinces, the Khalqis have seen themselves gradually supplanted in key Defence Ministry posts by Parchamis. There are 13 Parchami ministers and six Khalqis in the Afghan Government.

### Karachi: Mujahidin Inflict Heavy Losses

*BK281101 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] Reports from afghanistan say that mujahidin have inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet-backed Karmal troops in two recent military operations, killing over 50 soldiers. Nine soldiers were also captured during the clashes.

### Briefs

**Havana Health Conference** — The Afghan minister of health left Kabul on 27 November for Havana to attend a conference of health ministers of socialist countries. [Kabul English to South Asia 0930 GMT 28 Nov 83 GF]

**Ershad's 28 November Address to Nation**

*BK281640 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1230 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Chief Martial Law Administrator H.M. Ershad's address to nation 28 November — recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen: Greetings to you. At first I beg the blessings from the great merciful and almighty God for the prosperity of the nation and for happiness and peace among the people. Today I want to say something important, but before that [words indistinct].

I want to remind you of the situation at that time, only 20 months ago from today, when we took over the reins of administration of the country. Everyone will admit that when, on 30 May 1981, President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated our Armed Forces tackled the situation with great skill. In accordance with the rules of the Constitution, Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar took over the responsibility as acting president. Thereafter, upholding the objectives of the democratic system, all lawfully necessary cooperation was extended for smooth presidential elections. Justice Abdus Sattar was elected as the new president and took over the charge. It is a fact, though regrettable, that within a short span of time the situation deteriorated rapidly. There were bitter squabbles within the ruling party, unrestrained corruption in all levels of society, and an extreme deterioration of the law and order situation. It was a time when criminals took shelter at the residences of ministers. Under the pretext of setting up industries, millions of taka worth of granted loan money was dispatched to foreign countries in fake certificates. Tremendous corruption was going on in the nationalized industries. The foreign exchange reserve position at that time practically reached zero. Murder, piracy, highway robbery, and mugging were daily occurrences. Disregard for moral values was noticed in all spheres of society. No effective solution was achieved despite many warnings from different sections. President Justice Abdus Sattar resigned from his position after admitting the reasons for failure and the alarming danger. Addressing the nation, he handed over the rains of administration of the country to the Armed Forces. After that, Justice Abdus Sattar retired. Under a special arrangement and by relaxing regulations, he was given a pension at his own request.

My dear countrymen, you must have noticed that having faith in democracy, we have not abrogated the Constitution framed by the politicians, but only suspended it. This has been done because our main objective was the greater interests of the nation and people — in taking reforming steps in administration, the judiciary, land reform, and encouraging private ownership in the industrial field. We believe that after the implementation of these broad-based policies genuine democracy will be instituted smoothly and effectively in the country.

Everyone agrees that for the prosperity and progress of Bangladesh the economy of rural Bengal should be revitalized. Thus, to bring a change in the traditional system of administration we have made arrangements to transfer wide powers to the subdistricts. We have alloted nearly half of the current national budget for agriculture and villages. In this context, I wish to inform my countrymen that the government has made a decision in principle to uplift (? a large number) of subdivisions to the district level. The committee, which was appointed for this purpose, has begun its work. Its objective is to complete the final part of the policy of decentralization of administration, which we have adopted with the purpose of bringing welfare to the millions of neglected people in the country. We have to mobilize the rural economy to save Bangladesh from an alarming danger or devastation in the near future. There is no alternative to this.

My dear countrymen, within this short period, we have passed laws with the objective of ending the torture of women, have taken justice to the doorsteps of the people, and have taken firm steps to keep alive the spirit of the freedom struggle. Finally, within a period of only 16 months, we have granted permission for indoor politicking and also announced a timetable for elections. Showing clemency we have demonstrated our generosity by pardoning politicians and other (?hated) people of society undergoing sentences for corruption. In addition, within a period of only 20 months we have announced definite dates for elections of the president and Parliament on the basis of the Constitution framed by the politicians. We have repeatedly invited everyone, irrespective of their party affiliation, to hold negotiations on any issue because we believe that one of the rules of democracy is to exchange views and show respect to each other. The showing of patience and tolerance is always the manifestation of democratic wisdom.

But what do we actually see [words indistinct]? We took the necessary initiatives of seeking public opinion with an open mind through (?questionaires) for an educational policy suitable to an independent state. We repeatedly said that the proposed educational policy would be framed after taking the views of all groups. But regrettably some circles raised political slogans on the issue of the proposed educational policy and even used it as political tool for [words indistinct].

Dhaka University is the principal educational institution of the country and it has a great tradition of struggle. As chancellor of the univerity I drew the attention of everyone to the number of teachers there who are not up to the necessary educational standard of the Dhaka University and the autonomous authority of the university should take necessary steps in this regard. I regret to state that even today this has not been done.

As definite and established charges of corruption were brought against a former vice chancellor of the Rajshahi University, he was removed from his job and put in jail. On showing clemency he was later pardoned. But recently demonstrations have started in support of the reinstatement of that corrupt vice chancellor. Even the teachers committees of Rajshahi and Dhaka Universities have demanded his reinstatement.

Besides religious places in the country, the most holy place is the Supreme Court area. It is a matter of great regret that arrangements have been made for political speeches on the Supreme Court premises. Moreover, some Supreme Court lawyers, who loudly demand from the people's doorsteps bringing back the judicial system, are at the same time shouting several types of political slogans. A section of the press is using the press freedom granted to them as a license. It is stated with regret today that a section of the press is giving importance to publishing

provocative political speeches rather than reports on essential problems of the people of rural Bengal. Publishing provocative headlines has become a daily affair of all the newspapers. Even antinational statements are getting space in newspapers. When cases are filed against journalists, they take out processions.

On the other side, doctors who passed medical examinations with the tax money of the masses put forth their many demands. A section of interns has taken part in strikes, discarding the objectives of serving the sick or providing medical treatment to them. Bank employees dismissed from their jobs on charges of corruption are again assembling and forcing other bank employees to participate in illegal strikes. The students of the agricultural colleges and universities are demanding that government jobs be kept open for them after their graduation, and they have started taking part in many antisocial activities in support of this. Their principal demand is that the experts holding diplomas in the Agriculture Department should not be promoted [words indistinct].

In the suburbs, attempts are being made in a planned manner to hold strikes, destroy government property, and stage violence in support of immediately elevating subdivisions to districts. These include attempts to destroy telegraph wires and block railroad lines. Moreover, there are strikes in the field of transportation, and efforts are made from time to time to create obstacles in daily life by staging student and worker clashes. A section of hoarders and industrialists taking advantage of the situation are increasing the prices of essential and consumer goods at their whim. All this has taken place over the past few weeks.

Taking advantage of our well demonstrated generosity and greatness, some political parties create (?agitation) in the cities, organize strikes, and call themselves representatives of the people. Yet, they remain completely cut off from the social life of rural Bengal. They have realized that if the elections to union councils, municipalities, and especially in the subdistricts are completed smoothly, the political trends in Bangladesh will change. With the elections in subdistricts, the basic foundation of democracy will be established, and [word indistinct] exploitation in Bangladesh will end. Therefore, they have taken the initiative of creating a state of confusion in the country by opposing their own framed suspended Constitution.

My dear countrymen, on the eve of granting permission for open politics I say it is absolutely necessary to create a smooth and clear climate in the country during the last phase of the transition to democracy. The outcome of any attempt to disrupt law and order will not be good or in the greater interest of the nation. However, we have noticed with great regret that permission for open politics and press freedom is being used with generous license. Our demonstration of clemency has been considered our great weakness. A section of politicians has been trying to create disorder in the country over the last few weeks in a very planned manner for the interest of the party and [word indistinct]. At the same time, they are interested in foiling the forthcoming Islamic Conference Organization meeting.

I have already warned the people of the country in this regard. It is quite evident from the program of the politicians' demonstrations that they do not wish to enhance the good name of Bangladesh through the smooth holding of the Islamic foreign ministers conference. Some circles living in different areas and a section of newspapers are giving impetus to them in this regard. They are openly making provocative and antinational statements. They have even finally published programs for encirclement and a sit-in strike at the Secretariat and have resorted to violence. They have prevented government officials from performing their duties and called on the workers to stop production. In short, taking advantage of open politics, these politicians have destroyed the stable and peaceful climate in the urban areas, which has resulted in slowing down the commercial and economic sectors. For the greater interest of the nation and the people, this situation cannot be allowed to continue. We will never allow the disruption of peace and discipline in the country. The life of the general masses must be kept good and clear. Above all, it is one of the responsibilities of the government to maintain a favorable climate in the industrial field for economic progress and to safely conduct the activities of government offices, courts, banks, and so forth.

My dear countrymen, in this background some political parties started widespread violent activities this morning through their program of encirclement and a sit-in strike at the Bangladesh Secretariat. Smashing the walls of the Secretariat, workers of these political parties entered the building, set fire to it, extensively damaged government property, and engaged in fighting. They even destroyed invaluable lives. The workers engaged in safeguarding peace and discipline demonstrated commendable tolerance in the face of a dangerous provocation and brought the situation under control.

In such circumstances,and in the greater interest of the nation and the people, and for the restoration of peace and discipline everywhere, I, as the chief martial law administrator, have reimposed the rules of martial law, which I had relaxed. All types of political activities are completely banned from now on. All types of public meetings, processions, strikes, encirclements, and all kinds of illegal activities are banned. Thus, henceforth, all activities against martial law will be crushed with a heavy hand.

I hope that the general masses will extend full cooperation to the government, because everyone can see from each action of the government that we have been working from the very beginning with the objective of the welfare of the people, for the economic emancipation of the exploited people of rural Bengal, and for the transition to democracy, the timetable of which has already been announced.

The great merciful God gives all of us the (?blessings) and I wish that the life of the suffering people of Bangladesh will be filled with happiness and prosperity. Goodbye. Long live Bangladesh.

### Ershad Visits Injured Policemen 28 November

*BK290209 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] The chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Lieutenant General H. M. Ershad, visited the Rajabagh police hospital yesterday afternoon to see the policemen who were attacked and

injured by rowdy elements. The CMLA ordered for giving each injured policemen 2,000 taka.

Later, Gen Ershad visited the Secretariat and saw the damage caused to the Secretariat building, government vehicles, and other government property.

The deputy chief martial law administrator, and minister for communications, Rear Admiral M.A. Khan, also visited the Rajabagh police hospital and asked the concerned authorities to arrange best possible treatment for the injured policemen.

### Curfew Status Reported; Air Service Canceled

*BK290150 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] Curfew in the Dhaka metropolitan area will continue until further orders with a break of 3 hours from 1400 today. An official announcement said all government and semigovernment offices, autonomous bodies, and educational institutions in the capital will remain closed today. Banks throughout the country will remain closed today.

As already reported, Dhaka University and Rajshahi University have been closed sine die. Resident students of Dhaka University have been asked to vacate their halls as soon as curfew is lifted today, while Rajshahi University students were ordered to vacate the halls immediately.

Meanwhile, all domestic and regional flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines scheduled for today have been canceled. A Biman announcement, however, said that Biman's flight to Tripoli BG-011 will leave Dhaka at 1730 this afternoon instead of 0800 this morning. Flight No 035 for Jidda will leave at 1700 instead of 1330 this afternoon and BG-039 will take off for Dubayy and Daran at 1800 in the evening.

### Press Note Issued on Dhaka Disturbances

*BK290201 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] A press note issued in Dhaka last night said rowdy elements attacked the police around the Secretariat, causing serious injuries to 223 police personnel and 60 ansars [civil militia]. The police were compelled to open fire in order to protect the Secretariat building, government employees, public property and to avoid being completely overwhelmed themselves. The firing resulted in the deaths of 4 and injuries to 10 persons; 139 persons have so far been arrested in connection with the incident.

The press note says some political parties in persuance of their previous announced program of staging a sit-down strike around the Secretariat mobilized a large number of people at various concerns of the Secretariat yesterday morning. Several prominent political leaders took part in these assemblies. The crowd gradually became rowdy and attacked the police with deadly weapons to force their entry into the cordoned area. One group forced into the Secretariat by breaking down the southern wall at few places, attacked the police force, set fire to and completely damaged five government transports, including the car of a minister. They also damaged other government properties.

The press note said the government had made it clear that beseiging the Secretariat and preventing the government employees from entering into Secretariat were illegal and would not be tolerated. The government also tried to bring home to the political parties the danger inherent in the program like gheraoing [encircling] the Secretariat, which is the seat of national government. It is most regretable that the political parties did not pay any heed to these repeated appeals and warnings and proceeded with the program, ultimately causing loss of a few precious lives and substantial damage to public properties.

### AFP: Newspapers Not Circulated in Dhaka 29 Nov

*BK290622 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 29 (AFP) — Newspapers failed to appear here today following yesterday's four-hour pitched battle between security forces and thousands of demonstrators clamoring for the lifting of martial law.

Although there was no immediate word on the reason, informed sources said the suspension of publication was in response to an informal but united decision by newspaper owners and journalists to protest an assault by security forces on journalists. The sources added that the move was also in protest at an unofficial ban on the publication of the Bengali daily *NAINIK DESH*.

Police entered the National Press Club yesterday and beat up journalists, including the president of Dhaka Union of Journalists, Anwar Zahid, and BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY BSS special corespondent and *DAILY TELEGRAPH* stringer Mofazzal Hossain.

Four people were killed and several hundreds wounded, including over 280 members of the security forces, during yesterday's clashes in and around the government secretariat compound. But the unofficial death toll is said to be higher. Most roads around the government secretariat were still littered with bricks and barricades today.

Lieutenant-General Hussein Mohammad Ershad, head of the martial law regime, went on radio immediately after the clashes to announce the reimposition of a ban on political activity. An indefinite curfew was slapped from 3 p.m. yesterday and all government and semi-government offices, banks and educational institutions in Dhaka and some other towns were closed today. Most universities, colleges and schools were closed indefinitely.

### Reaction to Ershad Announcement on Elections Cited

*BK250715 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Nov 83 pp 1, 8*

[Text] The announcement of the Presidential and parliamentary elections by the Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA], Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad was generally welcomed in political circles in Dhaka on Monday night.

The CMLA's declaration of immediate lifting the ban on open politics was also widely acclaimed.

General Ershad's announcement came in his broadcast to the nation over radio and television on Monday evening.

The people from all walks of life gathered in large numbers around radio and television sets to listen to the CMLA's important address which also held out the assurance to revive the suspended Constitution after the Presidential and Jatiya Sangsad elections.

Some politicians however, when contacted by BSS [BANGLADESH SANBAD SANGSTHA] over telephone declined to comment on the CMLA's announcement saying they would do so after discussing the issue with their party colleagues.

Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] (Huda) expressed his happiness at the announcement of the Presidential and Parliamentary election dates by the Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. General H. M. Ershad.

Giving his reactions to BSS the BNP (Huda) Chairman said we were pledge-bound to establish democracy in the country. "We are very happy and very pleased at the announcement of the election dates."

"We hope that all political parties would extend cooperation and maintain patience in the process of the restoration of democracy."

It is a matter of great pleasure that Parliament election will be held before the end of 1984 and by November 25 the democracy is going to be restored in the country, Mr Chowdhury said.

Welcoming the announcement made by the CMLA, Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan) President Mr Mizanmur Rahman Chowdhury said that his party took it as a "good sign" for the people.

He said that they would be more happy if parliamentary election could be held earlier than the Presidential election.

When contacted by BSS over phone the former President Khondokar Mushtaque Ahmed and the former Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman declined to make any comment on the CMLA's announcement.

Khondkar Moshtaque who is President of Democratic League and Chairman of Jatiya Oikya Front said it was the "responsibility" of his party and the front to make comment on the issues. They, he said, would do so after discussions among them.

The BNP Vice-Chairman Shah Azizur Rahman said he belonged to a political party and "on this matter I can only give my reaction after discussion with the party leadership.'

Shah Moazzam Hossain, General Secretary of the Democratic League, said that he was happy at the constructive step taken by Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. Ershad regarding presidential and parliamentary polls and withdrawal of restrictions on open politics.

Giving his reaction to ENA [EASTERN NEWS AGENCY] he hoped that CMLA would gradually lift the other obstacles standing in the way of creation of congenial atmosphere for smooth transition to democracy.

Giving her reaction on the Presidential and Parliamentary election dates announced by the CMLA the Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed said the people in their verdict had given on November one last demanding the sangsad elections first then the presidential polls and immediate withdrawal of Martial Law.

Sheikh Hasina when contacted over phone described the lifting of ban on open polities by the Government as the achievement of the people who she said gave their verdict in favour of the five-point demand through the "successful observance" of recent hartal [strikes].

## Reportage on Commonwealth Summit Conference

### Hawke Suggestion

*BK261005 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0430 GMT 26 Nov 83*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Hawke, has told Commonwealth leaders in New Delhi that he sees no need for talk about developing new international financial institutions. He defended the existing ones, saying they have done a very significant job.

New Zealand's prime minister, Mr Muldoon, has suggested a small group of Commonwealth leaders be formed to put the Commonwealth's view on the international economy to the world's financial institutions. Mr Hawke described this suggestion as more realistic and (?quashes any) possible endless wrangling about new financial institutions.

Speaking at the close of the conference's first session on the world economy, he called for firm action to strengthen existing institutions. Mr Hawke said they should be adequately funded to be able to provide assistance to poorer developing nations. He deplored the development of protectionist policies, saying major economic powers were settling their trading differences without considering the interests of the smaller countries.

The Commonwealth leaders are in Goa — the former Portuguese enclave on India's west coast — for a weekend of informal talks.

### Statement on Economic Action

*BK281628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] Commonwealth summit has set up an eight-member consultative group for promoting a consensus on major world economic issues. The group will consider appropriate ways for effective action. It will also take full account of international consultations already going on and the discussions held in the New Delhi summit. The group comprises Britain, Canada, Fiji, India, New Zealand, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe. The group has been asked to report to the finance ministers of Commonwealth countries well before they meet in Toronto next year.

The decision of the summit is contained in a New Delhi statement on economic action finalized by the Commonwealth heads of government at their executive session this afternoon. The statement was released a short while ago.

The statement says that the leaders carefully considered how the Commonwealth can make a practical contribution to remove differences and misunderstanding. They believe that they can be particularly effective when they speak with the common voice to the rest of the world as they represent both the developing and the developed nations. The statement says the leaders have found common ground on certain specific and immediate issues.

Outlining global economic problems, the statement says that most countries have suffered from economic stagnation, unemployment, and inflation. World trade has declined. The international monetary, financial, and trading systems have been further weakened. The leaders have commended the Commonwealth report on protectionism, North-South dialogue and toward a new Bretton Woods. The statement says the leaders shared common belief that the Bretton Woods institutions need to be adapted and better equipped to keep with the full magnitude of the global crisis. These institutions must develop and adapt to the conditions of the 1980's and beyond.

The deputy director general of the Commonwealth, Sir Peter Marshal, described the statement as a consensus document of the summit.

### Views on Southern Africa

*BK281617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] The Commonwealth leaders have unanimously rejected the linkage of Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola. The leaders, who resumed their discussions in New Delhi, reviewed the situation in Namibia and southern Africa during the morning session.

Several leaders who spoke on Namibia blamed the United States for the stalemate in the efforts of the five-nation Western contact group. The conference spokesman told newsmen that the leaders expressed sadness and dismay over the American policies based on a misconception of the real principles at stake. There was a suggestion that apart from diplomatic efforts to persuade the U.S. Government to change its stand, an intensive campaign should be mounted to enable the American people to have an understanding of the happenings in southern Africa.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, who initiated the discussion, spoke of the disruptive policies of South Africa which has been trying to destabilize its neighbors through ground and air strikes and through economic sabotage. She said the Commonwealth should reaffirm its strong will and determination against apartheid and should do everything possible for the attainment of freedom by Namibia at the earliest. Though the Western contact group did some useful work till a few years ago, its utility has become doubtful because of the insistence of the United States and South Africa on the linkage.

During the discussion that followed, similar views were expressed by leaders of the frontline states of Africa, the prime ministers of Britain, Australia, Singapore, Jamaica, Mauritius, and the Bahamas and the president of Nigeria. Representatives of Canada, Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Guyana endorsed these views.

Mrs Gandhi said for the Commonwealth and especially for India the colonial question had always been of (?primary) importance. The Commonwealth itself is an outcome of the process of decolonilization. In this context, she quoted Jawaharlal Nehru's words that freedom is indivisible. She referred to the economic power South Africa has been using to nullify the international boycott of the apartheid regime in sports. She called for consolidating further world public opinion against any participation which gave South Africa the respectability it tried to get through money power.

The African leaders told the session that the struggle inside South Africa has begun in earnest and recalled President Kaunda's warning that the struggle would make the French revolution look like a picnic. They called the new constitutional arrangement in South Africa a sham charade.

**29 November Executive Session**

*BK290930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] In New Delhi, Commonwealth leaders had another executive session this morning to approve and give finishing touches to the communique to be issued later in the day. In between the executive session [as heard], there was a brief meeting which was restricted to the heads of government without any aides. They will have another session this afternoon.

**AFP Preview of Communique**

*BK291114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1057 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[By Michael Noble]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Nov 29 (AFP) — Commonwealth heads of government wound up their discussions at their summit here today with an agreement on a 59-paragraph communique setting out the 48-member group's position on major world issues. The statement will be released later today in a press conference by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The communique is expected to condemn the declaration of a Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus and reaffirm the commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the island. Bangladesh, which at one time was reported to have recognized the new regime, has reserved its position, well-informed sources said.

The section on Grenada is expected to place the emphasis on reconstruction rather than recrimination, the sources said. It was announced yesterday that the Commonwealth Caribbean states had agreed to a joint police force for the island if requested by the administration in the island.

Some of the toughtest battles over drafting of the communique were reportedly on the southern African question, with some governments, Britain in particular, seeking to tone down the condemnation of South Africa and the United States over their policy of linking any settlement to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

However the communique is not expected to show any new initiatives on the Namibian independence question, and while there is expected to be some criticism of the Western contact group there is also appreciation of the group's work, well-informed sources said. Britain, Canada, the United States and West Germany are in the group. Southern Africa takes the largest section of the communique with nine paragraphs.

The three paragraphs on the Middle East are expected to express deep concern about the situation and reaffirm the Commonwealth's support for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereign rights of Lebanon, the sources said.

Two paragraphs in the communique will be devoted to Southeast Asia and another on refugees, they added.

Other topics covered in the communique will be Afghanistan, Central America, Guyana and its dispute with Venezuela, Belize, the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific, the Mediterranean, the Law of the Sea and international economic cooperation, sources said.

A total of 37 paragraphs of the communique will be devoted to Commonwealth functional cooperation, the group's aid programmes and student exchange schemes.

## Summit Participants' Interviews, News Conferences

**Zambian President**

*MB280820 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, fired the first warning shots on the Namibian independence issue in New Delhi last night, when he warned that Zambia and her frontline neighbors will talk tough when the Commonwealth summit resumes its deliberations on southern Africa this morning. Speaking at an All-India Radio news conference at his hotel residence, Dr Kaunda said that the New Delhi summit has just as much relevance to Namibia as the 1979 Lusaka Commonwealth conference had on Zimbabwe.

The president said Zambia, being a truly nonaligned nation, speaks her mind at international fora, and will do so on southern Africa today. Asked whether he will be able to change British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's indifference on Namibia, Dr Kaunda said it is not for him to say whether Mrs Thatcher's stand will have changed at the end of the southern African debate.

The British premier distanced herself from the southern African issue when she addressed the summit on the opening day last Wednesday. (?Ministers) had tackled the world economic problems and (?acquitted) the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, as the principal causes of world tension.

Dr Kaunda meanwhile disclosed that the occupation of Angola by racist South African troops and the condemnation of the apartheid system in South Africa were the two major issues which were discussed at the last frontline states' summit in Lusaka 4 weeks ago. The president said the meeting seriously noted that the Reagan administration supports South Africa on the Namibian independence issue as far as the implementation of the UN Security Council's Resolution 435 is concerned.

Dr Kaunda drew a parallel between the Grenada debate last week and the debate on southern Africa today, which he predicted will be very hot indeed.

President Kaunda has hailed the Goa Declaration on International Security, calling it a landmark in the history of the

Commonwealth. The president explained that the Commonwealth comprised a microcosm of the nations, some with alliances such as NATO, and others are nonaligned, like India and Zambia, while others belonged to some other pacts. He said against such a backdrop of world alliances and pacts, the Commonwealth nations had reached a conclusion on the political situation with a consensus, and thought that this is the greatest thing that has ever happened within the organization.

The Commonwealth heads of government, who resume their summit in New Delhi today on Namibian independence, will meanwhile consider possible Commonwealth contributions to a settlement in the South African-ruled territory. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said yesterday that a recommendation had been made by the Commonwealth committee on southern Africa, which comprises of all [as heard] 44 full members out of the 48-member body. A Commonwealth Secretariat official said the committee, which reports to heads of government at the Commonwealth summit every 2 years, had (?last) discussed its final recommendations a few weeks before the summit opened last Wednesday.

The report calls for a more effective response from the international community to South Africa's actions. The report says South Africa's continued affront to the norms of civilized international behavior has reached a stage where this cannot be put off much longer without highly damaging consequences. Highlighting the security situation in southern African incursions into neighboring states, the report said an effective strategy is urgently needed to ensure that South Africa lives peacefully with its neighbors.

The Commonwealth committee on southern Africa has already presented a distance education project for South African refugees to the heads of government at its restricted session in GOA at the weekend. The scheme could be launched early next year and will be expanded to other frontline states later. It starts in Tanzania where it will provide correspondence courses for about 2,000 South African refugees living there.

**Australian Prime Minister**

*BK280903 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Hawke, has strongly criticized aspects of the so-called Goa declaration on International Security drawn up by Commonwealth leaders attending a weekend retreat in the Indian state. Mr Hawke described the declaration as the least productive element of the informal weekend talks. He expressed particular disappointment at the document's failure to address the problem of the spread of nuclear weapons among the countries other than the major nuclear powers.

Mr Hawke told a news conference in New Delhi that considerations that had operated to produce an absence of nuclear war among the major powers was far less likely to apply when there was a spread of nuclear weaponry. He said he believed Commonwealth leaders should be at least as concerned about that issue.

The Goa declaration issued yesterday claims that the future of civilization is threatened by the buildup of nuclear arsenal. It says that the central issue in securing wider progress on disarmament worldwide is stopping the nuclear arms race. Mr Hawke said the declaration was very general and made only passing reference to the spread of nuclear weapons.

**Further Hawke**

*BK290936 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mr Hawke, has said that his country is prepared to take even stronger action against the racist regime of South Africa. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, he said if the Commonwealth or the world community decide on economic sanctions against Pretoria, Australia will join them. He welcomed the consensus arrived at by the Commonwealth leaders on Cyprus and Grenada.

On economic issues, Mr Hawke said he is in favor of improving the present international institutions and adopting them for meeting the immediate needs.

He said his visit to India has led him to a better understanding of the problems and strengthened his commitment to render all possible assistance to the developing world.

**Antigua Foreign Minister**

*BK280934 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr Lester Bird, has supported the idea of a collective security system in the Caribbean under the umbrella of the United Nations. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he called upon Commonwealth countries to carry out an urgent study about the feasibility of the system.

Welcoming the Commonwealth suggestion for setting up of the advisory council of Grenada, Mr Bird said his country is for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and holding a free and fair election there as soon as possible. For this purpose he supported the idea of a combined police force of the Caribbean countries.

**Cyprus' Kiprianou**

*OW290245 Delhi Television Service in English 1615 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] The President of Cyprus, Mr Spiros Kiprianou, today welcomed the constitution [as heard] of a five-member action group on the Cyprus crisis, reiterated that the Turkish Cypriot action was in violation of human rights and international law and ruled out any negotiation with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Rauf Denktash, until the unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriot assembly was repelled.

[Begin Kiprianou recording] Our record is not only to secure condemnation of the illegal act which was committed against Cyprus by the [word indistinct] declaration of the so-called independence of the occupied part of Cyprus but also to ensure the reversal of this action. Not only the outcome itself of the discussion in the form in which it will appear in the communique tomorrow but also the discussions as such, the discussions themselves, revealed a sincere interest, a sincere desire, on the part of the Commonwealth heads of government to do their best to support our cause. [end recording]

At a packed press conference here at the media annex in Vigyan Bhavan, Mr Kiprianou said the Commonwealth effort in this regard will be to help in the implementation of the UN resolution on Cyprus. He said that the communique to be issued tomorrow will indicate the action taken by the action group. The group, it may be recalled, consists of Guyana, Nigeria, Australia, and Zambia, besides India.

Responding to questions, Mr Kiprianou recapitulated the events leading to the present situation and said that despite his country's warning nothing had been done to prevent Turkey legalizing its illegal act in the wake of the occupation of 37 percent of Cyprus territory 9 and 1/2 years ago in 1974.

**Prime Minister Mugabe**

*BK290942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] The prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, has called for speeding up the process for the independence of Namibia. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, he said the consensus reached at thhe Commonwealth meeting will reinforce the UN efforts toward this end.

Condemning the racist Pretoria regime, Mr Mugabe totally rejected the linkage of withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola with Namibia's independence. He said as a sovereign state, Angola has every right to seek help from any quarter for its protection against aggression.

Answering a question on the replacement of Cuban troops with a multinational force, Mr Mugabe said it is not for any outsider to make such a suggestion.

On Grenada, the Zimbabwean prime minister said foreign troops must withdraw from there. He said if any legitimacy is accorded to the invasion of Grenada, South Africa too may try to justify its aggression against Angola.

## Meetings Between Commonwealth Leaders Reported

**Shagari-Stevens**

*AB251500 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Nov 83*

[Excerpt] Nigeria has restated its readiness to host another round of talks for all Chadian leaders in an effort to find a permanent and acceptable solution to the crisis in that country. President Shehu Shagari gave the indication in New Delhi, India, today, during discussions with President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone when the Sierra Leonean leader called on him.

Briefing Nigerian journalists on the talks, the minister for external affairs, Alhaji Mohamed Hassan, said that President Stevens expressed full support for Nigeria's new initiative on Chad. The minister said that the talks between the two leaders also covered Namibia and Western Sahara.

President Shehu Shagari also received the leader of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, who expressed gratitude for Nigeria's continued support to the liberation and independence of Namibia. Another delegation received by the president was that of the Commonwealth Trade Union Council which presented him with a document seeking support on employment.

**Mugabe-Thatcher**

*MB251845 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Nov 83*

[Text] Reports from New Delhi say the leader of SWAPO, Comrade Sam Nujoma, has called on the British Government to sever diplomatic ties with the Pretoria regime. Comrade Nujoma said such a move would help Namibians to gain their independence. The SWAPO leader told newsmen that he did not see any reason why Britain should not break off relations with the Boer regime in [words indistinct] invasion which [words indistinct] the British against the Grenadians. Namibia's independence issue is expected to be discussed when the Commonwealth leaders resume their meeting on Monday.

After the second session of the Commonwealth summit in New Delhi yesterday, the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, and his British counterpart, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, held talks during which they agreed on the means of implementing mutual respect between the two countries. Reports from the Indian capital say the two leaders agreed to respect the other's right to run its own affairs.

## Organization Leaders Discuss Commonwealth Issues

**SWAPO President**

*OW280445 Delhi Television Service in English 1545 GMT 27 Nov 83*

[From "Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, New Delhi" program: Interview by H.S. Cchabra with South-West African People's Organization President Sam Nujoma; date, place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Cchabra] Mr President, our prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, while inaugurating the Commonwealth summit a few days ago said that the Lusaka Commonwealth summit led to the independence of Zimbabwe, and she expressed the hope that this New Delhi Commonwealth summit might lead to the independence of Namibia. It was indeed very nice to hear that, very encouraging also. But could you, Mr President, tell us what led Mrs Gandhi to be so optimistic about the nearness of the indepen-

dence of Namibia when the nonaligned summit held only a few months ago could only pass resolutions and the UN international conference on Namibia held in Paris also could only pass resolutions.

[Nujoma] Well, the prime minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, herself is a fighter for freedom. She participated in the struggle for freedom of India. Therefore, she is confident and optimistic that Namibia will also one day be free. And I share her view because I believe that Namibia's independence is certainly overdue. And, therefore, I believe that within a year or so Namibia will certainly be liberated, either through the intensification of the armed liberation struggle which is currently being carried out by the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, the military wing of SWAPO, or through a negotiated settlement and, of course, through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435. There are those possibilities, and I believe also that the heads of state or government of the Commonwealth now gathered in New Delhi during this summit certainly are in a position to exert pressure on the racist regime of South Africa, particularly Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand — those which have trade and other ties with the Pretoria racist regime — and also to exert pressure on the U.S. Reagan administration, which is the strongest supporter of the minority white racist regime of South Africa. You know, the fact that Resolution 435 is not yet implemented is simply because of the Reagan administration, who when he took over office in Washington early in 1981 started to try to amend the Security Council Resolution 435 in favor of the racist Pretoria regime as against our interest. That is why I share the same view with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that the chance for Namibia to be free either from this, immediate from this summit, is [words indistinct] case with the case of when southern Rhodesia... [sentence incomplete] The possibility is there, but [words indistinct] I am [word indistinct] optimistic.

[Cchabra] Very nice to hear that. Mr President, I heard many Africans tell me, many Africans tell me, that as long as President Ronald Reagan is in the White House, Namibia may not get independence. Do you share this view?

[Nujoma] I beg your pardon?

[Cchabra] As long as President Reagan is in the White House, Namibia may not get independence. Do you subscribe to this view?

[Nujoma] Well, of course, the Reagan administration is known to oppose our independence and support the minority white racist regime because of the sheer selfish interest of the U.S. imperialists by feeling that their economic and strategic interests in southern Africa in general and in Namibia in particular will better be served by the minority white racist regime of South Africa. But certainly the issue will work completely to the contrary, because the freedom of a people cannot be contained, or cannot be conditioned to issues that are occurring in other countries. So, therefore, we will fight for our freedom, and I believe certainly that there has been progress in this struggle against the forces of colonialism and imperialism in Africa. [Words indistinct] in southern Africa, the independence of Mozambique, Angola, and [words indistinct] Zimbabwe is a great contribution to our own struggle. It has entirely [word indistinct] the masses of the Namibian people who are oppressed as well as those in South Africa itself to initiate their own struggle by fighting, sacrificing their lives, in order to ensure that the future generation of Africa will not go through humiliation, degradation, and oppression at the hands of foreigners.

[Cchabra] Coming back to the Commonwealth summit, we are very glad that you are here. As you are aware, the Commonwealth came into being as a result of the process of decolonization. Now Namibia is the last citadel of imperialism left in Africa, in fact, in all the world. What exactly are your expectations from the Commonwealth summit?

[Nujoma] Well, we expect that the heads of state or government of the Commonwealth will express themselves for solidarity and support to SWAPO and the struggling Namibian people, for freedom and independence. We also believe that the summit will endorse the recent Security Council resolution which mandated the UN secretary general to initiate (?contact and) consultations between the parties to the proposed cease-fire. That means: SWAPO for Namibia representing the oppressed people, the Namibian people, and the minority white racist regime, the occupying power. And I think already really the majority of the Commonwealth member-states do support the efforts of the UN secretary general. [Word indistinct] Britain and others will also follow suit because the efforts of the UN secretary general are essentially to be supported if all those who say they believe in justice, equality, and freedom of man are really serious and honest in that.

[Cchabra] Now, as we understand, Mr President, independence for Namibia is just being held up on a very irrelevant issue, linking the presence of Cuban troops in Angola with the independence of Namibia, which is absolutely illogical and irregular. I mean, these countries — some consult Africa — some of those countries say that Cuban troops must withdraw from Angola as a precondition for the independence of Namibia. Now France and now lately Canada and Britain have also withdrawn from this kind of linkage with this kind of (?parallelism). Do you think that the Commonwealth summit can put any pressure on the United States and on South Africa, that this link is absolutely meaningless and it has nothing to do with the independence of Namibia?

[Nujoma] Well, yes, we believe that the Commonwealth member-states, while also members of the United Nations Organization, certainly are in a position to exert pressure on the United States. Some of them are fellow members in NATO, some are fellow members in other regional organizations serving the United Nations. So, therefore, it is high time that the [word indistinct] administration is brought to its senses to drop this illogical demand of Cuban troops' withdrawal from the People's Republic of Angola as a precondition to Namibia's independence. The people of Namibia, like all other people in the world, are entitled to freedom and independence. Therefore, their freedom cannot be conditioned to issues that are foreign and issues that are occurring in other sovereign states.

[Cchabra] Yes. You said, Mr President, that independence of Namibia is overdue. I really think it is more than overdue. For example, we have been waiting for independence of Namibia for

so many years. I personally have gone grey waiting for the independence of Namibia. I am sure we will get it during my lifetime. But what are the steps which can be taken now to speedify the process of decolonization of Namibia.

[Nujoma] I am quite confident about Namibia's independence. Whether we would see it in our lifetime there is no doubt about it. The Namibian people are already fighting with their arms in hands, and through the intensification of the war certainly Namibia will soon be liberated, or through a negotiated settlement if the Pretoria racist regime and its imperialist backers, particularly the Reagan administration in Washington, do come to their senses and support the just struggle of the Namibian people and the efforts of the international community. However, it is very important to point out the fact that the independence of Namibia really is delayed mainly by the selfish interests of the capitalist countries, namely Britain, France, West Germany, the United States and, to a certain extent, Canada too. Because all these countries have vast investments in Namibia, and they, therefore, think in their narrow thinking that their interests are better served by the racist minority white regime which occupies oppresses [as heard] the Namibian people.

[Cchabra] Therefore, there is no chance of mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa?

[Nujoma] Well, certainly of course, mandatory sanctions would be effective if they are lodged by the United Nations and supported by all member-states including those chief trading partners with South Africa like Britain, France, West Germany, and the United States of America. But these countries are not prepared to lodge, to support, economic sanctions because, I believe, if we are realistic, the imperialists think that South Africa is their own colony; I have always said that South Africa is a joint colony of imperialism.

[Cchabra] Finally, Mr President, how do you look at India's role in trying to help the liberation of Namibia?

[Nujoma] Well, India has been in the forefront in support of the oppressed people of the world and those of Africa in particular. You know, for example, take the question of Namibia. When General Smuts at the end of the second world war attempted to incorporate Namibia as the fifth province of South Africa... [Cchabra interrupts]

[Cchabra] India objected to it.

[Nujoma] Yes, in 1947, at the time when India was not even a sovereign state. So, since then, of course, we know the position of late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Shastri, as members of the Commonwealth, as members of the Nonaligned Movement. Collectively with the other member-states of those organizations as well as bilaterally, India as a state does play a very positive role in support of the oppressed people of Namibia. India plays a very positive role as a member of the UN Council for Namibia. Today the UN Council for Namibia is recognized as the government of Namibia, although physically it is not in Namibia because of the intransigeance and the defiance of the racist minority white regime. But at least it gives the Namibian people confidence that there are those who are thousands and thousands of kilometers away supporting their cause for freedom and independence.

[Cchabra] Thank you very much, Mr President. We wish you good luck and very early independence. Thank you.

### ANC Leader

*BK250919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] The African National Congress has called upon the international community and the Commonwealth countries in particular to take measures to end the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi today, the leader of the Congress, Mr Fanafuthi Johnhie Maktini, also urged for the implementation of the UN resolution for an early liberation of Namibia. He criticized the United States and Israel for their continued collaboration with the racist Pretoria regime.

Mr Maktini called for comprehensive sanctions against South Africa to weaken the regime and achieve majority rule there.

In reply to a question, he said the African National Congress will intensify its struggle for achieving a just and lasting peace in the region.

### Memorandum Sent to Commonwealth on Pakistan Rule

*BK290649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] The Council for Support to Democratic Rights in Pakistan has called for restoration of democratic rule in that country. In a memorandum submitted to heads of Commonwealth countries now meeting in New Delhi, the council has demanded the release of all political prisoners detained in Sind Province and the judicial enquiry into the violence and shooting by the police and the Army.

### Correction to Commonwealth Summit Report

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Reportage on Commonwealth Summit Conference," subheaded "25 November Deliberations," published in the 25 November South Asia *DAILY REPORT* on page E 8:

Second paragraph, line eight reads:—. . .as the basic causes of global imbalances . . . (substituting "causes" for "orders")

### Bangladesh Border Forces Put on 'Maximum Alert'

*BK291005 Hong Kong AFP in English 1002 GMT 29 Nov 83*

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 29 (AFP) -- India has put on maximum alert its para-military Border Security Forces (BSF) on the border with Bangladesh as press reports from Dhaka spoke of

continued popular unrest against the present martial rule in the country, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI reported the BSF alert in a dispatch from Agartala, capital of the tiny northeastern border State of Tripura, quoting official information available there, and said this would cover all the BSF posts along Tripura's 880 km (nearly 559 miles) boundary on the international frontier.

Four people were killed in Dhaka yesterday as anti-martial law protestors clashed with security forces there, earlier reports said. The latest unofficial reports available here today mentioned that opposition political leaders in the troubled neighbouring country had been arrested. No confirmation was available.

### Defense Minister Rules Out Foreign Bases

*BK261042 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Nov 83*

[Text] The federal defense minister, Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur, has said there is no foreign base on our soil nor would we allow any such facilities on our soil to anyone. Talking to newsmen in Multan today, the defense minister said we mind our own defense, which is our right. He said the Armed Forces and the people of Pakistan can face any challenge to the country's security. He described the situation in the country, including Sind, as quite normal.

Mr Talpur said the movement by the so-called Movement for the Restoration of Democracy had no national objective and it only indulged in subversive activity.

### MASHRIQ Discusses U.S. Assurances on Defenses

*GF271120 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 17 Nov 83 P 4*

[Editorial: "American Assurances"]

[Text] A spokesman for the U.S. State Department, Mr Harmon Kirby, in the course of his talks with Pakistani correspondents, has reiterated the assurances that in case of communist aggression against Pakistan, the United States will fulfill its commitments stated in the 1959 mutual defense pact and Pakistan will find the United States shoulder to shoulder with it. Mr Kirby said this pact is still valid and there was no reason why the United States should not go to Pakistan's aid if it becomes a victim to communist aggression.

After the talks at the highest level in September 1981 between the United States and Pakistan, a new page of friendly relations between the two countries was opened. President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, after those talks, paid a visit to the United States in December. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has also several times met high-ranking U.S. officials in Washington. Some important U.S. personalities have also visited Pakistan during the last 2 years. According to Mr Kirby some of the obstacles in the way of better relations have been removed and now there is a better atmosphere of understanding and good will between the two allies.

Moreover, both countries now understand better the viewpoints of each other on matters of mutual interest. Compared with the past, a proof of improved relations between the two countries is also visible from the most valuable aid which Pakistan is receiving to meet its defense and economic needs. However, we cannot deny the fact that some patriotic Pakistani circles cannot forget the past bitterness toward this ally. This is the very aspect of Pakistan-U.S. relations which the Indian-Soviet lobby uses to exploit among patriotic Pakistani circles.

The 1959 defense pact between Pakistan and the United States provides safeguards and aid only if Pakistan is a victim of communist aggression. Although, in December 1971, after signing a 20-year military treaty with the Soviet Union, India had under the umbrella of this superpower, partitioned Pakistan through open aggression, yet the United States did not see it as a communist aggression.

Nobody is ignorant of the hostile plans of the Indian rulers against Pakistan. The Indian prime minister has once again expressed these intentions by saying that there is a danger of attack on India. U.S. authorities should also take into account such possible aggressions which may take place in South Asia under the patronage of the communists.

### Zia Statement on Soviet Involvement in Sind Viewed

*GF281146 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 4 Nov 83 p 3*

[Editorial: "Soviet Hand in Sind"]

[Excerpts] President Ziaul Haq has said that the Soviet Union was also getting involved in disturbances in the Sind Province, that the Soviets had tried to cause disturbances in Baluchistan but when that had failed, they turned their attention to Sind Province. Regarding Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, President Ziaul Haq said that she may have been forced to laud the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) agitation in Sind. He also said that despite the situation created by Indian interference in Pakistan's domestic affairs, Pakistan will not allow even temporary setbacks to sabotage its efforts for improving relations with India. The president said these things to the *INDIAN EXPRESS* during an interview with its editor.

Despite showing moderation in his statements, President Ziaul Haq was forced to say that the Soviet Union was also involved in the disturbances taking place within Sind Province. This is indeed a very significant disclosure. It is certain that evidence supporting this statement must be in the hand of the government intelligence agencies. If the Soviet involvement had been of a trivial nature, President Ziaul Haq's moderation would have prevented him from disclosing this matter. However, his statement shows that in view of the signs and evidence in hand, it was impossible for him to remain silent on this matter.

Consider Gen Ziaul Haq's remark that Mrs Indira Gandhi may have made her comments on Pakistan's internal politics under pressure. What could be the source of this pressure? One could reply that despite being the head of the Nonaligned Movement, Mrs Indira Gandhi, who had been unable to condemn Soviet occupation of Afghanistan or support the Afghan people's struggle against this occupation, might have been forced to laud the MRD agitation. This "pressure" could be the 25-year term Soviet-Indian treaty of friendship through which India has pawned its independent judgment with Moscow, and which forces India to follow Soviet policies in all international matters.

The analysis of Gen Ziaul Haq's remark that after failure in Baluchistan the Soviets have turned their attention to Sind Province means that whatever is happening in Sind today began to get Mrs Indira Gandhi's support following the Soviet shift in strategy.

Pakistan has a just complaint against President Ziaul Haq, which is: While he considers it appropriate to reveal such facts to the

Indian public, he has failed to discuss it with the public at home. Surely, he could have taken his own people into confidence on this matter and could have enlisted their cooperation in dealing with such Soviet-inspired elements at home. If the general had disclosed this to the public at home before he did to the world at large, his statement would have been received with greater credence. If there was no need to disclose these charges to the Pakistani people, what could be expected in revealing them to the world at large?

### Karachi Antinarcotics Campaign Noted

*GF281217 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Nov 83 p 4*

[Text] The campaign against narcotic dealers in New Karachi entered seventh day yesterday. A small group of children took out a "procession" with placards in their hands to voice their indignation against narcotic peddlars in the vicinity.

Meanwhile, the committee sent a memorandum signed by hundreds of residents to president, governor of Sind, members of Majlis-i-Shoora and other appealing for exemplary punishment to the narcotic dealers.

They have appealed to the president to issue an ordinance declaring capital punishment for narcotic dealers particularly those selling the deadly heroin powder at public places.They have appealed for safety measures as well for those who have waged a war against narcotics.

In a press release, anti-narcotic committee, New Karachi, said that at least 150 addicts have pledged to give up the use of narcotics.

### Briefs

**Wheat, Rice Production** — The country's wheat production has increased 50 percent in the last 5 years. This was stated by Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture Vice Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua in an interview broadcast by Radio Pakistan in its national program on 21 November. He said wheat production last year increased to 12.34 million tons from 8.37 million tons in 1977. He said rice production is expected to be 3.57 million tons this year. [Excerpt][Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Nov 83 BK]

### Naval Commander Warns Against Threats to Region

*GF281603 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran would bury the dreams of the super powers in the waters of the Persian Gulf, said Captain Ahmadi, the commander of the naval base in Bushehr and Khark, in an interview with daily *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*, published Monday.

Captain Ahmadi referred to naval strength of the country, recalling the brilliant operations on 28th Sep., by the Iranian Navy which destroyed the Iraqi jetties of (Al-Bakr) and (Al-Omayyeh).

On the recent U.S. threats in the region, he said that the people there were quite vigilant and did not need any such guardians as the U.S.

The Persian Gulf belongs to these people and they can maintain its security better than any other country. Concluding he said that the people must curtail the hands of the aggressors from the region.

### Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,557

*LD281724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Communique No 1,557 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted night. During the past 24 hours, exchanges of sporadic artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between our victorious fighters and Saddam's mercenaries. While reinforcing their defensive positions, our forces opened fire on enemy positions, fortifications, and supply routes, setting fire to a number of their positions, killing a number of Iraqi forces,and destroying two of their vehicles. Patrol groups identified the defensive positions of Saddam's forces and delivered blows to them.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, exchanges of fire continued between our forces and the declining enemy forces. The exchange of fire was most intensive on the Sumar fronts. While protecting and defending the area under their protection, the victorious forces of Islam brought enemy positions and units under their heavy fire; enemy fire and operational and engineering activities were halted and a number of their personnel were killed or wounded. Losses inflicted upon the forces of Saddam on these fronts included the destruction of a number of weapons bunkers, one tank, one truck, and one engineering vehicle.

On the country's southern fronts and on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the fighters of Islam returned enemy fire in the defense of the positions under their protection. By sending patrol groups, our forces controlled the movements of Saddam's forces and in destroying a number of enemy trenches and foxholes they killed or wounded a number of enemy personnel.

On the Faqih border area, some enemy patrol groups were identified by our reconnaisance groups and patrol units. They were forced to flee by the execution of fire by our forces, which inflicted some casualties.

Abadan again yesterday came under the fire of the Iraqi forces and a number of houses and shops were damaged.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

### Foreign Ministry Official on Mideast, African Tour

*LD210711 Tehran IRNA in English 2014 GMT 20 Nov 83*

[Text] Tehran, Nov 20, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam said here today that in his visits to Asian and African countries in October and November he and the rest of an Iranian delegation had informed the officials of their host countries of the latest developments in the battlefront and of the victories of the Muslim combatants of Iran in their fight against the invading enemy forces.

He said also that in his meetings with officials in the host countries he had also dsicussed various issues of mutual interest. The Iranian Foreign Ministry official left Tehran for a visit to Syria, Algeria, Libya, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and several African countries on October 18.

Asked about any new peace initiative about to be taken between Iran and Iraq, Sheykh ol-Eslam [words indistinct] such move at the present time and added that even "the Americans" have totally lost their hopes about Saddam and have discontinued flattering themselves. He also described factional strife between the Palestinian forces as a situation to the detriment of the Palestinians, and expressed hope that the fighting between Palestinian factions would cease shortly.

Referring to Iran's foreign policies in relation with the African countries he said that the Islamic Republic pursues humanistic and philanthropic goals in her relations with other countries. "We are essentially different from other countries," said Sheykh ol-Eslam "while the Americans are after natural and mineral and other resources in other countries, we see the betterment of the deprived masses in our global pursuits."

Asked about the relations between Iran and France, he said that the outlook of the Islamic Republic upon the French people is distinctly different from its attitude towards the French Government. "Our differences with them go to the grass root," said Sheykh ol-Eslam. "They hope to see Israel and Saddam both [word indistinct] out in the region, whereas we wish to see the end of them both."

### Hungarian Foreign Minister Arrives 26 November

*LD262112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Nov 83*

[Text] According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter Varkonyi arrived in Tehran tonight at the head of a delegation. He was

welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati and several Foreign Ministry officials. During his visit to Tehran, Peter Varkonyi is to hold talks with political figures of the Islamic Republic.

On his arrival in Tehran, the Hungarian minister of foreign affairs announced in a press statement that during his visit he will review the possibilities for expanding relations between Iran and Hungary to their mutual interest. The Hungarian minister of foreign affairs also announced that he will discuss the international situation during his talks with officials of the Islamic Republic. This is the first visit by a Hungarian minister of foreign affairs to the Islamic Republic. The visit is taking place at the invitation of our foreign minister.

**Musavi-Varkonyi Meeting**

*GF271606 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 83*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA — The foreign affairs minister of the Hungarian People's Republic, Peter Varkonyi, accompanied by an economic and trade delegation met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi this morning.

In this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Hungarian Ambassador to Tehran Lajos Nagy, talks were held on mutual ties.

The Hungarian foreign minister, who arrived here Saturday, expressed willingness for expansion of the two countries relations and described his talks with the Iranian officials as fruitful and successful.

Prime Minister Musavi, stressing the independent policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international scene, said that based on this policy Iran wished to extend its relations with those countries which respect this principle.

**Velayati-Varkonyi Meeting**

*GF271632 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 27 Nov 83*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA — The foreign minister of the Hungarian People's Republic, Peter Varkonyi, at the head of his country's delegation met with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati this morning.

In this meeting Mr. Varkonyi said that his visit indicates the good and growing relations between the two countries. He added that Hungary was among the first countries which officially recognized and supported the Islamic Republic of Iran following the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Then Dr. Velayati said that international state of affairs is not too bright because the arms race is gaining momentum every day and more expenditure is made on armaments.

The military expenditure of the world, added Velayati, increased a hundred-fold within 35 years from 1945 to 1980. That is, he went on, it rose from 6 billion dollars to 600 billion dollars, and the atomic and non-atomic explosive materials in the world have reached a stage being capable of destroying the world many times over. Therefore, the existing trend is not desirable, and the basis for creating a peaceful world requires a dramatic change in outlooks, he said.

Referring to the existing problems in the region and Iran's serious support for anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist forces of the region, Velayati expressed satisfaction over the rising trend of ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Hungarian People's Republic.

**Varkonyi, Velayati Statements**

*LD271803 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 83*

[Excerpts] The Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, leading an economic and trade delegation, and accompanied by the Hungarian ambassador, met Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi-Khamene'i this morning. Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati and the Iranian ambassador to Hungary were present.

The Hungarian minister of foreign affairs also met today with Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati. The Hungarian minister said that such meetings are a sign of the good relations between Iran and Hungary and that there are many fields where the two countries could cooperate. The Hungarian minister of foreign affairs also referred to international problems and the danger of and increase in the number of nuclear arms. He expressed his joy at there being no political problems between our two countries and at the expansion of political relations between our two countries. Velayati said in reply: The international situation is not very promising, and the arms race has escalated. More money is now spent on arms: During the 35 years from 1945-1980 the money spent on arms in the world has increased by 100 times and has reached $600 billion from 6 billion. Our country's minister of foreign affairs said: Present world trends are not in the interest of humanity. To create world peace there should be a fundamental change in attitudes in the world. Velayati, referring to current issues in the region and Iran's serious support for anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist forces in the region, expressed pleasure at the expanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of Hungary.

**Khamene'i-Varkonyi Meeting**

*LD281202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi met with President Khamene'i this morning. During the meeting, also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and the Iranian and Hungarian ambassadors, Varkonyi conveyed a friendly message from the leader of his country and stressed that relations between Iran and Hungary should be expanded.

Expressing his gratitude for the Hungarian president's greetings, Khamene'i welcomed the expansion of relations between the two countries. He said: It is our Islamic Revolution's overall policy to establish friendly relations with all countries that wish to have friendly relations with us. Of course, Iran and Hungary have a common view of certain issues, namely, adopting a decisive

stance against world arrogance attacks on the oppressed and deprived nations of the world. Referring to U.S. imperialism's expansionist policy and to the might of the Islamic revolution, the president added: The Islamic Revolution destroyed one of the most solid bases of U.S. colonialism in the Middle East. Today, this revolution is confronting extensive American attacks against the nations of the region with decisiveness and strength.

**Departure Statement**

*GF281706 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — Mr. Peter Varkonyi, the Hungarian foreign affairs minister left Tehran today after an official visit. He had headed an economic and trade delegation to Iran.

Talking to IRNA, before his departure, he termed his meeting and talks on bilateral issues and international problems with Iranian officials beneficial and fruitful.

The Hungarian foreign minister also noted that the economic ties between the two countries were based on respect for mutual interest. He said also that after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, avenues for speedier expansion of ties continued to be pursued between the two countries. This he said paved the way for further expansion of trade exchanges, resulting in a four and a half times increase in their bilateral dealings. He said that the maintenance and expansion of such ties had necessitated the adopting of practical approaches between the two countries.

The Iranian foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati who was also present at the airport, described the meetings and discussions held between the two sides as constructive and effective. Velayati said also that the meetings were based on mutual compromise and it was expected that trade exchanges between the two countries would increase even more than in previous years.

During their stay here the Hungarian delegation held talks with Iran's president, prime minister, commerce minister as well as foreign minister.

**Velayati-Varkonyi Interview**

*LD281928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] The Hungarian foreign minister, [Peter Varkonyi], who came to Iran at the head of a high-ranking delegation, left Tehran this afternoon. He was seen off by Mr Velayati, the foreign minister. It was the Hungarian foreign minister's first trip to Iran and in the course of his 2-day stay in our country, he conferred with Iranian officials on economic and political issues and the expansion of bilateral relations. Our correspondent interviewed the Hungarian foreign minister and Mr Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the outcome of these talks. Here are the interviews:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Minister, would you please tell us which officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran you met and what was the outcome of your trip?

[Varkonyi in Hungarian with superimposed Persian translation] My first official visit to Iran was successful and this is because of the welcome I received here.

[Correspondent] Would you please tell us which officials you met and what was the outcome of your meetings?

[Varkonyi] I held lengthy talks with my counterpart, Mr Velayati, and these talks were very useful and constructive both with regard to the expansion of bilateral relations and the evaluation of international issues. It was a great honor for me to be able to meet the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Khamene'i, too. Your prime minister, Mr Musavi, also received me warmly. I was able to hold very constructive talks with the commerce minister, Mr Ja'fari.

[Correspondent] Do you intend to hold further talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Varkonyi] Of course. I have invited your foreign affairs minister, Mr Velayati, for an official visit to my country and he has accepted this invitation. (?Several other officials) of your country have also been invited to visit Hungary and we have insisted that they do so. We believe that personal visits are very important, and we hope that such visits will continue.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Varkonyi] You are welcome.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, would you please explain what (?issues were discussed) during the meetings between the Hungarian delegation and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and what were the outcome of these talks?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. His Excellency Mr Peter Varkonyi, the honorable foreign minister of Hungary, who is visiting our country at the official invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has had very fruitful talks during his meeting with me and his meetings with their excellencies the president, the prime minister, and the commerce minister. There were talks on various political and trade issues and issues related to oil. In view of the fact that the Hungarian deputy trade minister had also visited Tehran several days before and there had been preliminary talks to prepare the ground for economic discussions, we reached favorable agreements in this field and we think that next year the volume of trade between the two countries will be much higher than in 1983. We believe that there are great possibilities for the expansion of relations between the two countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hungary, and we shall take steps for the expansion of relations.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

**USSR Refrigerated Vehicles Operation Terminated**

*GF281610 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 28 Nov 83*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — With the operation of refrigerated vehicles company of the Roads and Transportation Min

istry, the Soviet refrigerated vehicles will no longer be allowed to operate in Iran.

Iranian Roads and Transportation Minister Hadi Nezhad-Hoseyniyan while announcing this added that the rate of unloading of goods at Iranian ports has increased by 60 percent, from last year. However, he said, due to the vast quantity of imports, among such problems still faced are back up in unloading of ships and congestion of goods at the ports.

Nezhad-Hoseyniyan further added that it had been forecasted that the imports would reach 24 million tons by the end of the year 1362 (ending March 1984). A primary solution for the delays in unloading and congestion of goods at the port is an import planning system for the country i.e. to import according to its (country's) unloading capabilities, he said.

**Interior Minister Interviewed on Nehzat-e Azadi**

*GF231800 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Nov 83 p 11*

[Exclusive interview with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri in Tehran — date not given]

[Excerpts] The interior minister said that Nehzat-e Azadi had tried to distribute invitations to a meeting before obtaining a permit to do so. Considering their very bad record among the population, we expected trouble, he said. The interior ministry could not agree to this meeting and we legally had the right to stop a permit.

Referring to the adventurism of the leaders of Nehzat-e Azadi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri said: Even though a permit for the meeting was refused and the gentlemen agreed, they continued to issue invitations for their meeting on Friday [28 October 1983] even up to Thursday. On Friday, Mr Bazargan called Mr Mahdavi-Kani and said: People have surrounded our building, Mr Sabbaghian and Mr Yazdi are within, please come to our aid!

While expressing his appreciation for the efforts of the central committee guards and people in general for their cooperation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri said: One of the reasons the people were agitated was Nehzat-e Azadi itself. However, the officials of the committee escorted the gentlemen of Nehzat-e Azadi from a back entrance away from public security and took them home. Nehzat-e Azadi is facing its political death and it is trying all means to breathe new life and regain its lost honor. This is an impossible task since the nation is very aware. They realize they are unlikely to be elected. They are trying to bring the elections into question. People have not forgotten the chants of the publishers of *MIZAN* that the Majlis must go.

The interior minister went on: We were informed on 25 October that a group of girls were distributing a statement by Nehzat-e Azadi around the city. The Islamic revolution committee reported that the statement invited people to participate in a seminar to ensure free elections! The committee was ordered to stop the distribution of the statement since the Interior Ministry had not been consulted for permission for this meeting that they had falsely labeled a seminar. Nehzat-e Azadi contacted the Interior Ministry on 25 October [date as published] in a letter asking for permission to hold this meeting. The distribution of the statement was before they contacted us to obtain permission to hold a meeting. They only contacted us after some of their people were arrested while distributing the statement inviting people to attend.

When Mr Sabbaghian contacted our political office he was told that his letter had just been received and that he would get an answer on the following day. He in turn replied that the letter was to inform the Interior Ministry and that they did not need any permission. He was then informed that their so-called seminar was violating two articles of the law and that it was not a seminar but a meeting and required further investigation. A meeting requires the permission of the Interior Ministry. Nehzat-e Azadi used to hold sessions in its headquarters before as well as up to and including a congress, without informing us. However, the Interior Ministry was aware of this and made sure that the area was safe for them at every instance. This move by Nehzat-e Azadi was a sly one. They wanted to hold a meeting but when they realized that a meeting required a permit they called it a seminar! As you know, a seminar is participated in by a limited and known number of individuals. When a statement is distributed citywide then all the people are invited. This sort of seminar is similar to the ones held in the former society when the date was advertised in newspapers.

Their statement was as follows: In His exalted name. Compatriots, try to ensure free elections.

This is written inside a frame and then the statement goes on to say: You are invited to participate in a seminar on ensuring free elections. This means it is not a form of informing the people, it is an invitation to the people and the name, therefore, is a meeting and requires a permit. Nehzat-e Azadi distributed the invitations before obtaining a permit. The answer to their letter — received on Tuesday — was that Mr Sabbaghian was told that the Interior Ministry cannot agree to such a meeting and in the ministry's opinion it is banned. Naturally, under the circumstances when there is a war and when the entire attention of our nation is focused on the war, the enemies abroad, the victory of our dear ones at the fronts, and the Iraqi missile attacks against our cities, such a group attempts to hold a meeting without permission in order to divert the national attention from the fundamental national issues. Considering their bad record among the people and their lack of positive aspects among the people, we expected danger.

We considered the possibility that the Hezbollah might arrive at this meeting, that a group might gather under their banner, and that a clash might occur — something similar to the events of Bani-Sadr's era and the time of the hypocrites, which would divert the focus of attention from essential issues of the country. Therefore, we did not give them permission to hold a meeting. Even though we did not give them permission and even though they accepted, we unfortunately heard reports from reliable sources and officials that the gentlemen were distributing invitations up to and including Thursday. One of our agents even went to their center and asked for a number of pamphlets. He was given some, and when he asked if a meeting would definitely be

held tomorrow he was told: The Interior Ministry has objected to it but we will do something.

On Friday at 1530 I was informed that the hezbollahi ummah had gathered outside the offices of Nehzat-e Azadi and that Mr Bazargan had phoned His Holiness Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, saying that Messrs Sabbaghian and Yazdi were inside the building and the people around it were asking for help. As a result, Mr Mahdavi called me and informed me of the issue. I contacted the committee and, fortunately, they were aware of the situation and said that the people had gathered in front of the building and that it is the duty of the police to ensure the safety of the building. I ordered them to go to the area and disperse the people in order to stop them from attacking the building and members of Nehzat-e Azadi, since according to reports they were chanting:

"This is the second den of spies and must be captured."

Considering such slogans it was expected that the people would occupy the building. Later on, it became clear that while I was ordering the officials to go and disperse the people, the people had already entered the building. The committee which was not responsible for the security of the building entered the arena and expelled the people, as was their order. However, before the committee arrived, a small clash had already occurred. They expelled the people and kept the gentlemen members of Nehzat-e Azadi in one room. I had ordered the members of the committee to take them home in committee vehicles from a back exit and away from the eyes of the people. The members of the central committee even brought Mr Yazdi's car that was in the area to the central committee and handed it over to the driver.

Of course, I should mention that one of the elements tempting people was the Nehzat-e Azadi itself. A placard was hung in front of the building and on it was written that unfortunately the Interior Ministry has decided not to permit this seminar to be held. Similar placards were hung from other parts of the building. Another element tempting people was the wording of their communiques which insulted the policies of the Islamic Republic, resulting in complaints from the people. Is it right to say that we are going to form a seminar to secure election rights while a nation is producing dead people and is fighting to maintain freedom and sovereignty?

The elections which are supposed to be held during the next few months are one of the points of which the Islamic Republic is very proud. The Islamic Republic has had the best elections always and the imam of the nation has always insisted on the vote of people and free elections. They entered the Majlis with these elections and now say that they want to hold a seminar on securing voting rights.

It is interesting to note that on the same night, foreign radios started to broadcast against the Islamic Republic and say that in Iran there is not even enough freedom to have a seminar. In the future it should be clear about the connection between this incident and the manner in which these radios received the news. We should ask the people whether the problem was a seminar or a meeting and whether the Interior Ministry should have been consulted about it and whether the Interior Ministry had the right to disagree with such a meeting.

When asked why he thought such mischief-mongering and dastardly actions are being taken by the Nehzat-e Azadi, the interior minister said: According to the remarks they issued today (yesterday), it seems that they want to give a new show and have a new life. These people are dead politicians in our society. The slogan saying Bani-Sadr has 11 million votes and the Islamic Republic Majlis has less than 8 million votes, so it should be dimissed, has not yet been forgotten by people. The people have not forgotten the chants and support of this group for Bani-Sadr. It disappointed people with its liberal line and as a result, in the political field, it died politically.

As the president of the Majlis and the prime minister have said, the goal of such mischief is to make propaganda for foreign radios. Since they have recognized that they will probably not be reelected in the second elections, they publish communiques to put a question mark on this election.

Asked about the upcoming elections and the various candidates, Nateq-Nuri said: As the imam of the nation and the great Ayatollah Montazeri have said, the next election is one of the most important happenings in our country because the most powerful council which represents the people after the clerical rule is the Islamic Majlis and the future of our country is dependent on the Majlis. People should be most cautious when choosing their candidates and representatives to the Majlis. They should understand that the Islamic Republic needs Majlis representatives who are faithful to Islam and the clerical rule, are bright and active in political happenings, and are experts in other areas. We hope that by looking at the experiences from the first Majlis, a better and more complete Majlis will be established in the future and the elections will be peaceful, unified, and held in the happiness of God.